

Message Text

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ORIGIN NSF-04

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TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY OSCI TGEN BM

SUBJ: NSF/SFCP. VISITING SCIENTIST JOSEPH ARDITTI.

1. DR. JOSEPH ARDITTI, ASSOC. PROF. DEVELOPMENTAL AND CELL BIOLOGY, UNIV. CALIF/IRVINE 92664 HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST VISIT RASU ABOUT 9 MONTHS TO LECTURE IN BOTANY AND PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AND PARTICIPATE IN BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH, STARTING ABOUT JANUARY 1974. KNOWS U SAW HAN DEPT. FORESTRY THROUGH 1971 VISIT AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIVE CORRESPONDENCE, DEALING WITH ARDITTI'S WILLINGNESS COLLABORATE SAW HAN TO REFINE AND DEVELOP ORCHID CULTURE PROBABLY TO PILOT PLANT STAGE, INCLUDING PRELIMINARY PLANS PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT. STATES BURMA LUXURIATES IN ORCHIDS, INCLUDING COSTLY/COVETED VARIETIES, CAPABLE EARNING FOREIGN EXCHANGE WORLD MARKET (CF. THAI ORCHID EXPORT), NOW CARELESSLY DESTROYED IN ROUTINE LUMBERING.

2. ARDITTI'S BIODATA:

BORN SOFIA, BULGARIA, 1932; U.S. CITIZEN. B.S., UNIV. CALIF. LOS ANGELES 1959; PH.D. (BIOL., PLANT PHYSIOLOGY) UNIV. SOUTHERN CALIF. 1965; ASSISTANT TO ASSOCIATE PROF.
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UNIV. CALIF. IRVINE, 1966-73. AM. ASSOC. ADVANCEMENT SCI.,

-. INST. BIOL. SCI., AM. SOC. PLANT PHYSIOLOGY, BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INTERESTS: ORCHID BIOLOGY, PHYTO-CHEMISTRY, PLANT DEVELOPMENT, ABOUT 100 PAPERS PUBLISHED THESE SUBJECTS.

3. DR. R. RONKIN, NSF, VISITED U SAW HAN'S LABORATORY AT CENTRAL ORCHID NURSERY RANGOON MAY 1973, FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH CAPABILITY AND SOUND EXECUTION HIS WORK UNDER EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. RONKIN ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBLE COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY WITH U SAN THA AUNG AND GROUP PERSONS CONCERNED HIGHER EDUCATION WHO, OSTENSIBLY ATTRACTED BY FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNING FEATURE, EXPRESSED INTEREST.

4. NSF PREPARED FAVORABLY CONSIDER REQUEST FOR GRANT U.S.-OWNED KYATS FOR A) LIVING EXPENSES B) IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL C) LOCAL HIRE ASSISTANCE AND OTHER RESEARCH COSTS. CAN ALSO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR DOLLAR FUNDING OF ITEMS NEEDED FOR ARDITTI'S COLLABORATION: D) INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, UNLESS CU/EA CAN FUND E) EQUIPMENT FOR HIS USE: LAB MICROSCOPE, PHARMACEUTICAL BALANCE, P-H METER, AND CERTAIN SUPPLIES.

5. NSF REQUESTS EMB GUIDANCE CONCERNING ACCEPTABILITY THIS ACTIVITY, ACTIONS REQUIRED BY NSF AND ARDITTI, AND BUDGET ESTIMATES 4A, B, C, AND ABOVE. NSF REQUIRES IDENTIFICATION OF FOREIGN COUNTERPART SCIENTIST, WHO COULD BE U SAW HAN OR HEAD OF BOTANY RASU. IF GUB OR RASU WILL ACCEPT KYAT GRANT FOR RESEARCH COSTS, NSF REQUIRES GRANTEE INFO PER NSF PUBL. 72-13, SEC. 34.

6. BECAUSE ARDITTI'S TALENTS ARE SOUGHT BY OTHER EA COUNTRIES, HE AND NSF WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY.

7. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEW IF NSF PROJECT COULD BEST BE HANDLED AS PART OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM THROUGH CU/EA OR SEPARATELY. ROGERS

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